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Summary record of the 22nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 31 October 2002, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)

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Agenda item 92: Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields (*continued*)

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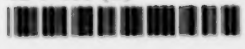
02-67035 (E)



The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 92: Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields (*continued*) (A/57/75-E/2002/57, A/57/343, A/57/444)

1. **Ms. Rodsmoen** (Norway), noting that development issues were now higher on the global agenda than ever before, said that it was essential to adjust the programme of work in order to support the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The historic United Nations conferences held over the past decade had placed considerable demands on both Member States and the United Nations Secretariat, in which context she agreed with the Secretary-General's comments concerning summit fatigue and the need for self-restraint in calling for further conferences. The existing structures should be more effectively used in following up, coordinating and implementing the outcomes of such conferences. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary machinery should play primary roles, thereby additionally strengthening the relevance and impact of the General Assembly. Norway had concluded a national plan of action on poverty reduction and was also elaborating a similar plan on sustainable development. The resident coordinator system had an important role to play in promoting the integration of such implementation into country assistance programmes and in enhancing United Nations system coordination at the country level, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The coordinated follow-up of conferences was an increasingly pressing topic on which various reports, recommendations and proposals had already been produced. The next essential step was therefore to achieve full integration between the review and follow-up of the Millennium Summit and other conferences, particularly in view of the overriding priority which should be attached to attainment of the MDGs. In that connection, she emphasized the important function of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and the Millennium Campaign. Bearing in mind the major results expected in the aftermath of the major conferences which had taken place, her Government was ready to engage in immediate discussions to finalize important questions such as the role of the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods dialogue in the follow-up process and the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly as an important stepping stone in that process.

2. **Ms. Liu** Hue (China) said that strict adherence to the objectives, principles and commitments agreed by the international community with regard to international cooperation for development would guarantee the integrated and coordinated follow-up of the major development-related conferences held over the past decade. Adequate financing, transfer of technology on favourable terms and capacity-building were key aspects of the follow-up activities in question. Her delegation would be making constructive proposals in the Committee's forthcoming discussions on the subject of those activities, which should take into account the division of labour and cooperation needed among United Nations bodies in order to enhance coordination and effectiveness in implementing conference outcomes. Basic indicators were helpful tools in measuring the progress of such implementation in that they assisted review and evaluation as a whole and reduced the burden of multiple submissions of data. In that connection, she stressed that the limited number of common indicators should be selected from among those currently accepted and widely used by Member States. The full participation of all countries in that selection constituted an important principle, as did approval of the selected indicators by the concerned government agencies. Such indicators should be confined to those already contained in the outcome documents and their application should take full account of the conditions, varying stages of development and statistical capabilities of each individual country. The issue of indicators, including actions beyond the national level, should be fully studied with due regard for the views of the functional commissions concerning the use of indicators in their respective areas of work.

3. **Mr. Isakov** (Russian Federation) said that coordinated implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits required more effective and focused oversight processes. At present there was a proliferation of individual oversight processes, with it a risk of duplication and error. His delegation favoured the three-tiered system involving the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the functional commissions. It was expedient gradually to move away from the practice of automatic five-year reviews, and

broader and more effective use should be made of existing intergovernmental mechanisms by, for example, holding special meetings in the framework of regular sessions of the General Assembly. In September 2002, for example, an exceptionally important and very successful high-level meeting of the General Assembly had been held on the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), with high-level participation and panel discussions. The time had come to find the best mechanisms for integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, and his delegation welcomed the idea of using the current session of the General Assembly to discuss all such questions in the context of an open-ended special working group of the General Assembly which would have the mandate to consider not merely the economic but also the social summits and conferences of the United Nations.

4. **Mr. Chaudhry** (Pakistan) concurred with the view that implementation was the key to the coherent, balanced and comprehensive follow-up to conference outcomes and that strengthening of the engagement and interest of all stakeholders was essential. He also associated himself with the earlier statement on the subject made by the Venezuelan representative on behalf of the Group of 77 and remarked that, despite the many efforts deployed, a concrete follow-up and implementation mechanism remained elusive. On that score, he regretted the inability of the General Assembly to provide the necessary guidance to the Secretary-General, whose inputs on the subject he nevertheless appreciated. His delegation had submitted a proposal aimed at securing adequate follow-up through the establishment of an integrated, comprehensive and coordinated follow-up and implementation mechanism to review and monitor implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences. Given its universality and overarching responsibilities, the United Nations should be at the centre of that proposed mechanism, which should function at three levels: the functional commissions, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. Any substantive review should be carried out, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, by functional commissions with individually assigned areas of responsibility, such as trade and development, finance and development and sustainable development. They should take into account the relevant goals and commitments adopted at the Millennium Summit, as well as those relating to cross-cutting issues in the follow-up and implementation process.

5. His delegation had also proposed the establishment of two separate commissions on trade and on finance to address the discernible absence of a follow-up mechanism at the expert level that could pursue commitments and heighten the focus of discussion, with the participation of other stakeholders, in those two areas. The rotation of venues for the meetings of those two commissions had similarly been proposed as a means of strengthening interaction between the United Nations and other stakeholders. He stressed that the proposed functional commission on trade and development would not encroach upon the mandate of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); on the contrary, it would reinforce its message and also take guidance from the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board. In the interest of consensus, however, his delegation was ready to explore possible cost-effective alternatives to the establishment of new structures that could have budgetary implications. Another option would be to explore ways of covering the expenses involved from within existing resources by measures such as convening only biennial meetings of functional commissions.

6. The reports and recommendations of the proposed commissions should be considered at the annual high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, which should then adopt appropriate decisions and perhaps even organize a session dedicated to formulating concrete recommendations with the aim of facilitating integrated and coordinated follow-up and implementation. The General Assembly should similarly review all such reports and recommendations, either under an agenda item of the plenary or by holding a biennial high-level intergovernmental dialogue. In his view, the Second Committee was an inappropriate forum for the integration of economic and social issues. The current agenda item should instead be discussed in the plenary of the General Assembly, to which end consideration might be given to the much-endorsed proposal for an open-ended working group to examine the modalities of the proposed follow-up and implementation mechanism. In conclusion, he stressed that the Pakistani proposal was in the larger interest of all Member States and offered a way to achieve meaningful follow-up and

implementation of the commendable work completed during the past decade.

7. **Mr. Escanero** (Mexico) said that the recent major United Nations conferences and summits had helped to forge a new global agenda for sustainable development. The Millennium Declaration had crystallized the main development objectives, putting particular emphasis on the reduction of extreme poverty and the provision of universal health and educational services within the framework of a balanced gender approach. Each conference or summit had devoted considerable attention to considering the financial resources required for attaining the goals set forth and the Monterrey Consensus had brought those perspectives into sharper focus by summing them up in a single, integrated agenda that provided a strategic framework, spelling out how the efforts of all of the major stakeholders involved in financing for development would be harmonized.

8. Priority should be given to defining transparent and objective indicators to determine progress achieved or setbacks suffered, while also indicating what had to be done to consolidate the positive trends or address shortcomings at the national, regional and international levels, as well as throughout the system.

9. The biggest challenge facing Member States was how to implement the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in an integrated and coordinated manner, with concrete, measurable results while rendering strict account to the peoples of the world. That required a renewed commitment to multilateralism based on joint action and shared responsibility. A resolute effort must be made to update the current institutions and multilateral machinery so as to be able to deal with the realities of the new century, while at the same time strengthening their capabilities and creating ties of mutual cooperation among them. Specifically, the United Nations must become a more modern, flexible institution that was capable of translating the international community's intentions into results.

10. For those reasons, Mexico fully supported the strengthening of the United Nations and efforts to modernize its working methods with a view to a better division of labour among the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council and the functional commissions in the economic, social and environmental spheres. That would call for reorganizing the substantive agenda into themes that would promote a consistent and integrative approach to the international community's commitment to action; applying in a broader and more systematic way formats designed to produce interactive debate, such as round tables or discussion panels; synthesizing and improving analytical and action-oriented reports so that they could feed into deliberations; and negotiating consolidated resolutions designed to foster fluid political dialogue on implementation with all the major stakeholders in the area of development.

11. Modernization of the United Nations in the economic and social spheres must set an example that befitted an institution whose leadership was vital to harmonizing the efforts of governments, regional and international organizations, the private sector and civil society around the idea of decisive action to promote sustainable development worldwide. In that regard, his delegation deemed it useful to set up, before the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, an open-ended group to consider how to proceed with the modernization of the Organization.

12. **Mr. Motomura** (Japan) reiterated the need to shift the focus on to implementation in order to achieve more tangible results on the ground. The effective translation into action of the summit-level agreements reached at major international conferences was the challenge facing the international community. He questioned the effectiveness of post-conference review processes in contributing to the achievement of poverty reduction, sustained economic growth and sustainable development. During those review processes, which were held in parallel with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, the same set of issues were repeatedly subject to time-consuming and costly debate. The conclusion of the recent series of major development-related conferences provided the opportune moment for adoption of the more pragmatic and result-oriented approach so urgently needed in following up their outcome. To that end, Member States should consider possible follow-up mechanisms which made effective use of the existing structures within the United Nations system. In that connection, it was appropriate for the Economic and Social Council to pursue a cross-cutting approach to the common themes of major United Nations conferences and play a more central role in follow-up activities. It was also appropriate for the relevant subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations to follow up

the technical matters specific to each conference, while the General Assembly should give overall political direction to the implementation of conference outcomes. In order to take into account any divergent views on the subject, however, he advocated the establishment of an ad hoc working group of the General Assembly as a suitable forum for thorough discussion of the subject, in which his delegation would actively participate.

13. **Mr. Nambiar** (India) said conference follow-up should, first and foremost, address the issue of implementation of the outcomes of United Nations conferences. Shared responsibility did not absolve national Governments, which were primarily responsible for the well-being of their citizens, but meant that indicators measuring progress should be applied to all members of the international community. For developed countries, that meant measuring progress in achieving mutually agreed objectives and targets for ODA, debt relief and market access.

14. The task of reviewing conference implementation required an integrated and coordinated approach to common overarching conference goals and a focused view in order to stimulate progress in the relevant areas. A uniform approach to the follow-up of all United Nations conferences and summits should be adopted. While all Member States had an interest in the follow-up to all conferences, the degree of interest could vary. Agreement on adopting a common approach would make it easier to find a consensus.

15. **Ms. Zubčević** (Croatia) said that the real challenge facing the United Nations system was how to address in a coordinated and coherent manner the implementation of internationally agreed development goals for poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, sustainable development and improved living conditions for people everywhere. The General Assembly, as the main deliberative and policy-making body, should focus on overall policy issues emerging from the follow-up of major conferences and summits and ensure that they were linked to development goals. However, the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies should be responsible for overall guidance and coordination. The Council's role and impact would need to be further strengthened in order to meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization and sustainable development and to promote the effective implementation of development goals, including those of major conferences and summits, thus contributing to an integrated framework for implementation, while at the same time avoiding overlap and enhancing the effectiveness of actions at all levels. The outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits should be fully reflected in the operational work and country frameworks of United Nations system organizations in accordance with national development objectives and priorities.

16. There should be a clearer division of labour among the functional commissions. In that regard, the multi-year programme of those commissions provided a suitable framework for assessing progress in the implementation of major United Nations conferences and summits. It was also important to involve all interested stakeholders, especially the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, as well as the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in the implementation of United Nations goals and programmes. Moreover, since Croatia supported strengthening the Council's role in peace-building and the adoption of special measures in favour of countries emerging from prolonged conflict, it welcomed the establishment of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau.

17. Referring to the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, she said that all parts of the United Nations system must stay engaged in order to implement the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits. To that end, the Second Committee should play a greater role in providing recommendations for implementation in the economic and social spheres and offer guidance to the plenary of the General Assembly in those areas. With a view to addressing all those challenges, her delegation supported the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group with a specific mandate and time limit to work in close collaboration with the Secretariat.

18. **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Egypt) expressed surprise at the fact that the follow-up to the maior United Nations conferences and summits and special sessions organized since the early 1990s was on the agenda only of the Second Committee, although many of those conferences and summits also fell within the mandate of the Third Committee. The primary objective of conference follow-up should be to ensure the implementation of their outcomes, as that was the only way to convince world public opinion and national Governments of the validity and relevance of the United Nations and multilateralism. Each United

Nations conference had its own independent nature and follow-up mechanism. The entire international community would benefit from promoting synergies among the various national and international constituencies of each conference and from making sure that each conference focused on its core area of interest in order to avoid duplication of effort and wastage of resources. It was regrettable that what was decided at the end of one conference was often called into question and reopened at the next conference. In his delegation's view, thematic cross-cutting issues common to all the conferences should be decided at the intergovernmental level. Indeed, integrated and coordinated follow-up should not be a back door for renegotiating the outcome of conferences. Integrated follow-up should be consistent with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227. Indeed, the core concern of integrated follow-up should be to focus on implementation and mobilization of the necessary means and capacities.

19. Review conferences should not add targets for developing countries, while leaving out the need for support from developed countries and the United Nations system. Restating targets during conferences was not useful and the international community must ensure that they were implemented within the agreed time frames, with the necessary international support and enabling environment. A step-by-step approach could be adopted whereby the Second and Third Committees could examine various issues separately then, at a later stage, consider the integrated follow-up of all the conferences together. At a time when the international community was considering ways and means of strengthening the United Nations and its main bodies, including the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council in order to enable them to better respond to new challenges and opportunities, it was vital to look at all the issues together and collectively decide on the whole picture, rather than have isolated discussions on each of its parts.

20. **Mr. O'Brien** (Australia) said that the Second and Third Committees had devoted much, if not most, of their energy over the past few years to organizing major conferences in the economic and social fields. The coming years would focus on conference follow-up. He agreed with the Secretary-General on the need for self-restraint in creating new conferences because of the growing summit fatigue among the general public and many governments.

21. Large conferences detracted from the existing United Nations structure, particularly with respect to the role of the Economic and Social Council, diverted budget funds and Secretariat resources from programmes and on-the-ground assistance and complicated an already challenging calendar. Too little time had been spent on producing practical, fresh and creative ideas on implementation, thus reinforcing the perception in at least some member countries that the United Nations issued declarations but was no use for implementation. That was unfortunate, because the various conferences and summits, particularly the Millennium Summit, the International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, had set out goals which provided a clear picture of the task ahead.

22. The challenge was how to turn those goals into reality. Australia was encouraged by the recent debate on implementation of the Millennium development goals, where it had discerned a growing recognition that the United Nations was moving from a period of defining visionary goals to an era of implementation of those agreed objectives. That would require rethinking of how discussions were designed and how the key actors essential to the delivery of on-the-ground results were engaged. In that regard, his delegation was also encouraged by the increased attention being given to the development of practical, results-oriented partnerships with business and other economic sectors, which were contributing to real gains. Moreover, the notion must be dispelled that there was always a direct relationship between high-level attention and the delivery of results so important to those in need. There was a need to make greater use of the existing United Nations structure and bodies, particularly the Economic and Social Council, and to give greater opportunities to engage in non-combative, productive discussions, which identified barriers to implementation and mutually agreed ways to overcome them.

23. He welcomed the Chairman's efforts to bring about a change in the Committee's work practices and also welcomed the Secretary-General's report entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387) and called for the creation of a system which delivered results and not just speech-making opportunities.

24. **Mr. Oratmangun** (Indonesia) said that the most important conferences and summits on economic and social issues over the previous three years had produced critical internationally agreed development goals of eradicating poverty, achieving sustained economic growth and promoting sustainable development. It was therefore the right time to move from the era of commitment and goal-setting to one of firm implementation by the international community.

25. To that end, the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the relevant functional commissions of the United Nations, acting as a three-tiered system for the follow-up to and review of conferences, were each playing a crucial role. The challenge, however, was to ensure that those organs considered the outcomes of the meetings as being interlinked and thereby collectively contributed towards achieving an integrated framework for the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals.

26. He wished to emphasize the importance of strengthening the coordinating role of the Economic and Social Council in the work of its functional commissions and subsidiary organs to implement the outcomes of conferences and summits, and the role of the General Assembly in policy formulation and appraisal in the economic, social and related fields. The General Assembly should focus on an integrated and coordinated approach and promote the role of the United Nations in becoming a more effective instrument for achieving development goals. Moreover, the General Assembly should enhance greater coherence between the Council, the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization (WTO) in achieving development goals, particularly in poverty eradication, promotion of food security and enhancing sustainable development.

27. The ongoing reform process, in particular the provisions of General Assembly resolution 50/227 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, should be taken into account. His delegation wished to propose the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc working group, under the auspices of the President of the General Assembly, to develop recommendations on ensuring an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the conferences and summits, improve the working methods of the General Assembly and its main bodies, and promote a consolidated report of the Secretary-General. The working group should also examine how best to address the issue of comprehensive follow-up of the major conferences and summits of the 1990s, including their format and periodicity, taking into account the specific thematic unity and follow-up mechanism. The activities should be based on resolution 50/227 and focus on implementation, preservation of thematic unity and complementarity with the ongoing reform processes of the United Nations as a whole.

28. In conclusion, he recalled that in 2004 the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in 1994, would have completed 10 years of implementation. Under agenda item 92, the Committee should consider options for reviewing the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action issued by the Conference in 1994.

29. **Ms. Msuya** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the major conferences of the 1990s were testimony to the international community's resolve to address national problems that transcended national boundaries and such issues as poverty, environmental degradation and economic, social and gender imbalances. In order to ensure the realization of the objectives of the summits, the Economic and Social Council had undertaken to promote a coordinated and integrated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits such as the strengthening of links with its functional commissions and other relevant bodies. Successful follow-up and review of implementation also required concerted and joint efforts by the Council and its functional commissions, the Bretton Woods institutions and other organizations. In addition, governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders could play a vital role.

30. Her delegation welcomed the recommendations on the institutional arrangement for a comprehensive and integrated follow-up and implementation of outcomes. If fully implemented, that arrangement would further enhance the intended results. Nevertheless, Member States were crucial to the process, and there was an urgent need for policy adjustment in both industrialized and developing countries. Developing countries should continue to adjust policy to ensure improved service delivery and creation of an environment conducive to investment from both domestic as well as foreign sources, while

focusing clearly on poverty eradication. That would not in itself solve the problem, as shown by the structural adjustment programmes of the 1980s. The developed countries also needed to allow greater market access, improve terms of trade and increase official development assistance.

31. Once policies were in place, there was still an urgent need for additional resources and global partnership. In subsequent reports on the item under consideration, it might be useful to record policy adjustments and the level of registered global partnership to stimulate sustained economic growth in developing countries. Her delegation looked forward to further reports on the implementation of the millennium development goals on conflict prevention, treatment of communicable diseases, and financing for development strategies for sustainable economic growth.

32. It was vital to maintain the political will and momentum of the Millennium Summit in order to translate commitments into firm action and to create an appropriate framework for implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

33. **Mr. Davison** (Unites States of America) said that the major conferences had helped to advance public opinion and policy, develop initiatives and form partnerships. However, the propensity for automatic reviews had proven to be seriously flawed.

34. The functional commissions of the Council should retain primary responsibility for the review and assessment of progress made in implementing conference documents, but with a new focus. The Council should also continue to review progress in the solution of issues such as poverty eradication and gender equality, identify cross-cutting issues and prioritize and coordinate the work of the functional commissions. He agreed that the Council and the General Assembly should broaden dialogue and continue their cooperation with the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO. Furthermore, the General Assembly should ensure that the Secretary-General was not burdened by competing or duplicated reporting mandates from distinct conference follow-up mechanisms. The focus should remain squarely on results-oriented implementation.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.

United Nations A/C.2/57/SR.23

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Summary record of the 23rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 1 November 2002, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Suazo ..... (Honduras)
later: Mr. Kára (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Czech Republic)

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Agenda item 89: Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (*continued*)

Agenda item 86: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*)

(c) Culture and development (*continued*)

Agenda item 94: Globalization and interdependence

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02-67237 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.15 p.m.

Agenda item 89: Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.23 and A/C.2/57/L.24)

Draft resolution on implementation of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) (A/C.2/57/L.24)

1. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.24, on a topic that was certainly the highest priority of most developing countries — poverty eradication. The resolution was somewhat long, since the issue was complex and the Group of 77 and China felt strongly that all actions to be taken by the international community within the framework of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty should be clearly laid down in resolution form.

Draft resolution on establishment of the World Solidarity Fund (A/C.2/57/L.23)

2. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.23 on establishment of the World Solidarity Fund, a product of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the next logical step in the campaign to eradicate poverty in keeping with the spirit of the Millennium Declaration.

Agenda item 86: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.11)

(c) Culture and development (*continued*)

Draft resolution on the Year of Kyrgyz Statehood (A/C.2/57/L.11)

3. **The Chairman** announced that Yemen wished to join the sponsors and that Kazakhstan wished to withdraw.

4. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee) said that, in addition to Burkina Faso, Canada, the Dominican Republic, India, Italy, Swaziland and Tajikistan, which had already joined the sponsors, Kuwait, the Philippines, Qatar and Suriname wished to become sponsors.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.11 was adopted.*

Agenda item 94: Globalization and interdependence (A/57/287, A/57/88-S/2002/672, A/57/422-S/2002/1064, A/57/444)

6. **Mr. Khan** (Director, Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/57/287), the third such report since the launching of the reporting process on the phenomenon of globalization in 1998 with the high-level dialogue of the Economic and Social Council on strengthening international economic cooperation through partnership. While the previous two reports had been very broad in scope, the current one focused on the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, particularly, the interlinkages between economic governance at the national and global levels. The report was not ground-breaking but rather a compilation of all the proposals and initiatives, not only from an economic perspective but also taking into account social and other dimensions. For example, the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization of the International Labour Organization (ILO) (A/57/287, Box 4) dealt not only with trade and finance but also with various social issues such as money-laundering, corruption and organized crime. The purpose of narrowing the focus was to move the discussion beyond generalities to consideration of specific aspects of globalization in greater depth and detail.

7. **Mr. Vallenilla** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the developing countries were concerned mainly with the impact of globalization on their economic and social development, and whether the globalization of trade, the financial markets and communications (including in the cultural sphere) would help or hinder their attainment of sustainable growth and development. He wondered whether, beyond a mere description of the phenomenon of globalization, the Committee could reach a conceptual agreement on mechanisms to harness globalization for the benefit of all. That would entail making progress in the areas of trade and finance, on the basis of the Declaration of the Fourth

Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), held in Doha, and the Monterrey Consensus; respectively, and espousing principles of justice, equity, balance and transparency.

8. **Ms. Løj** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey, and, in addition, Iceland, called for an integrated approach to globalization, covering social, economic and environmental policies, which drew all developing countries into the global economy, and was based on domestic policies to ensure good governance at the national and local levels. Countries must establish appropriate policies in the areas of taxation, income redistribution, decent rights at work and anti-corruption in a context of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights. The international community, in turn, must lend support, including technical assistance and capacity-building, to national efforts to create effective social and economic institutions, which played a pivotal role in making globalization a positive phenomenon. Support for capacity-building in local communities was equally important to that end.

9. Turning to the economic dimension of globalization, she called for better policy coherence among the United Nations, the international financial institutions and the World Trade Organization and enhanced stability and transparency of the international financial system, including through improved crisis prevention and resolution, and measures to tackle the financial abuse of globalization by terrorism, corruption and money-laundering. A more inclusive and equitable global economic system, in which all countries and civil society participated, was also vital. The European Union would continue to contribute to the debate on improving global economic governance. In the area of trade, the European Union was firmly committed to the provisions of the Doha Ministerial Declaration particularly with regard to market access. It was the main export market for developing countries and offered them many trade preferences, including its "everything but arms initiative", which granted duty-free and quota-free market access for all exports from the least developed countries. The European Union would also continue to increase its assistance to strengthen long-term trade and production capacity, reduce supply-side constraints and help countries participate effectively in WTO negotiations. As for the social dimension of global governance, the European Union strongly advocated the full implementation of the core labour standards set out in the Declaration on Principles and Fundamental Rights at Work, unanimously adopted by the International Labour Organization in 1998. It supported ILO monitoring and enforcement measures and believed they should be strengthened. The European Union welcomed, in particular, the establishment of the ILO World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization and looked forward to the conclusions of its analytical work, to be submitted in 2003.

10. The European Union looked forward to the World Summit on the Information Society to be held in 2003 and 2005, which would promote greater knowledge-sharing through new technology and enhance partnerships to make information available to all countries and peoples. It also strongly supported the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Task Force. The benefits of globalization could be maximized by providing the world with global public goods, such as the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), prime examples of true global partnership among the public sector, the private sector and civil society. The European Union strongly supported the establishment of an open, transparent and inclusive participatory process at the global level to explore the definition, identification and effective provision of global public goods and encouraged all countries and organizations to play an active role in the work of the International Task Force on Global Public Goods, launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

11. **Mr. Zhang** Yishan (China), noting that globalization was the inevitable result of the development of productive forces and of science and technology, said that global governance had not kept pace with the rapid development of market globalization, and the latter had further aggravated the inequities in the global financial and trading systems, as a result of which many developing countries found themselves in difficulties. Global democratization must go hand in hand with global integration, requiring reform of the existing global financial, monetary and trading systems, making them more equitable and democratic, and increasing the participation of developing countries in global decision-making and norm-setting. Globalization should respect diversity

and ownership: it did not necessarily mean that there should be a uniform model of development. Countries must independently choose their own path to development, but globalization should promote increased exchanges between cultures on the basis of mutual respect, as well as tolerance and harmonious coexistence. Globalization should enhance policy coherence and consistency among multilateral economic institutions. Policy coherence at the national level needed to be enhanced as well. Coherence between the development cooperation policies and economic policies of the developed countries was a matter that needed to be addressed urgently: the United Nations could and should play a leading role in securing the policy coherence of various institutions at global level, which would promote the development of developing countries, narrow the gap between North and South, and lead to global prosperity. Finally, globalization should foster independence and solidarity: those who practised a "beggar-thy-neighbour" policy would eventually see their policy backfire, as had been shown in the Asian financial crisis. International relations in the context of globalization should be based on multilateralism and mutual cooperation aimed at global development and security. China called for increased international cooperation based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit and effective implementation of relevant development goals and tasks.

12. **Mr. Hassan** (Pakistan) said that those who had suffered the negative consequences of globalization regarded it as a new form of economic, cultural and eventually political domination. Unbridled market forces were increasing the pain, suffering and misery of hundreds of millions of people. Globalization was negatively affecting the overall process of development, marginalizing weak and small economies.

13. If globalization was to work for all, the economic, financial and social challenges would have to be addressed in a coherent manner, requiring greater cooperation among States Members of the United Nations but also between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, civil society and the private sector. The Monterrey Consensus provided the basic framework, and its commitments must be implemented. Genuine globalization would require that the developing countries be properly integrated into the global economic system, with the markets of the developed countries open to freer cross-border flows of goods, technology, capital, information and people. Other prerequisites were resolution of the unsustainable debt burden of developing countries, filling capacity and resource gaps and enhancing those countries' participation in international decision-making and norm-setting. The developed countries were lecturing the developing world about the advantages of deregulation and liberalization, but were scarcely applying those principles to their own markets. Major areas of export interest to developing countries were either closed or protected. Pakistan was also looking forward to the report of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, established by ILO, which it hoped would make useful recommendations on using the process of globalization as a resource for poverty eradication and employment generation. In all those developments, the United Nations should play the leading role.

14. **Mr. Zagrekov** (Russian Federation) said that the United Nations must play an active role in regulating globalization through enhanced coordination of monetary, financial and international trade policies involving greater cooperation with the relevant international forums. His delegation supported the furtherance of the dialogue between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO, both at the annual meetings between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions and in the high-level dialogue within the framework of the General Assembly. Such dialogues must focus on coordinating and cooperating in implementation of the decisions of the International Conference on Financing for Development. The role of the United Nations was particularly important in assisting developing countries and countries with economies in transition to use the opportunities of globalization through their integration into the world economy in the areas of international trade and foreign investment. The integration process could be promoted by making WTO a genuinely universal organization.

15. One of the characteristics of globalization was the increasing role of the private sector in the world economy, and his delegation considered that the United Nations could derive significant benefit from a partnership with the private sector. The Russian Federation called for further expansion of that partnership, especially in the context of implementing the initiative of the Secretary-General regarding the

Global Compact. The Russian Federation supported his recommendation to create a common umbrella which would bring together under his leadership the Global Compact Office and the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships.

16. Organized crime, which fed international terrorism, could be combated only through the joint efforts of the international community, and in that regard the United Nations had an important role to play. An international legal basis should be worked out for regulating questions concerning the repatriation to their countries of origin of funds received through corrupt practices which had been illegally transferred.

17. The social dimension of globalization had to be adequately taken into account, especially in the drafting of national and international strategies. Securing balanced integration of economic, financial, trade and social policy at national and international levels required moving away from a narrowly sectoral approach to resolving the global problem, and in that regard the United Nations possessed unique advantages.

18. *Mr. Kára (Czech Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

19. **Mrs. Ribeiro Viotti** (Brazil), speaking on behalf of the countries members of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (Mercosur), said that, in order to turn the problems of globalization into opportunities, it was necessary to increase coherence in many areas of international economic relations. The participation of developing countries in international economic forums should be enhanced and more legitimacy given to international decision-making, allowing the concerns and interests of all countries to be taken into account. For instance, the IMF quota formula should be revised to eliminate the bias in favour of developed countries. There should also be an integrated international approach to all development issues, stimulating contacts between the United Nations, IMF, the World Bank and WTO, and attracting the participation of NGOs and the private sector. One of the challenges for the United Nations was to follow up on that cooperation both at the annual meeting between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions and in the high-level dialogue of the General Assembly. Another important task of the United Nations was that of integrated follow-up to the major conferences and summits of recent years.

20. In order to enhance coherence in the international order, it was necessary to fight against the asymmetries of international trade: there was a huge gap between free trade rhetoric and protectionist realities. In the past decade, Mercosur countries had done a great deal to open up their markets and integrate themselves into the world economy, but the same level of openness had not been evident in the developed countries. Another issue that deserved careful consideration was that of international financial flows: the countries most in need of resources transferred them to developed countries. That major incoherence of globalization should be resolved by an increase in official development assistance, market access for the exports of developing countries, debt cancellation and creation of an international environment favourable to investments in developing countries. The absence of rules created high volatility in transactions involving speculative capital: there was a need for new frameworks so as to avoid systemic problems and to allow all countries to enjoy the same opportunities. Experience had shown that the market economy could generate wealth but could not satisfactorily distribute it, which was why it was necessary to implement the outcomes of the major conferences and summits, strengthening the role of States and fighting against the incoherences and inequalities of the international economic order.

21. **Mr. Cheah Sam Kip** (Malaysia) said that the current form of globalization was affecting developing countries negatively: the various asymmetries in the international system, together with global financial instability, were making it more difficult for them to benefit from the process. His own country's experience of unfettered globalization and liberalization had shown that the risk was as real as the potential: free markets and the free mobility of capital had imposed costs which Malaysia was unwilling to bear, and it had undertaken macroeconomic adjustment policies and implemented financial reforms to reduce risks and vulnerabilities. Malaysia believed that the freedom of the market to act was neither absolute nor unqualified. Globalization had to be fully inclusive and equitable. The consultation process needed to be improved so that the views and positions of all countries could be heard when economic decisions with a global impact were taken in the various international bodies. The faith of many developing countries in globalization had been greatly shaken and diminished, and they viewed the prospect of further liberalizing their economies with

great trepidation. Unless appropriate responses were forthcoming from the individual countries themselves as well as from the international community, the asymmetries implicit in the process of globalization were bound to intensify uneven development.

22. Malaysia noted with appreciation the positive influence of the United Nations on the interventions that were required to assist the developing countries in that regard, and also appreciated the recent efforts made by the World Bank and IMF to that end. Any approach to balanced development needed to take into account the increasing influence of civil society and the private sector. The latter should be made a partner in the implementation of national and global programmes, but regrettably there was no mechanism at present capable of monitoring or regulating the activities of the private sector, particularly the large corporations. That situation had to be addressed, so as to provide some form of corporate responsibility underpinned by transparency and accountability. There was indeed a need to ensure that the globalization of economies and societies was supported and sustained by a globalization of community. Relations among States had to be based on a new paradigm predicated not only on equal sovereignty but also on respect for dignity and the mutuality of interests and benefits.

23. **Ms. Zubčević** (Croatia) said that, in an increasingly interdependent world, the enhancement of economic governance at all levels had become critical. The need for globalization to be fully inclusive and equitable was well known, but it was necessary to implement policies and strategies for the benefit of all. Recent conferences and summits had provided a broad framework for coherence, not only among country policies and programmes, but also among multilateral institutions. Key institutions in international economic policy-making needed to be more inclusive and participatory, while developing countries should design national development strategies and policies promoting good governance and participate in the fight against all forms of crime. Developing countries and economies in transition needed assistance in strengthening capacity-building, human resource development and technological progress to develop effective economic governance systems. The United Nations could make a positive contribution through better coordination, cooperation and policy coherence of its existing mechanisms, especially among the main bodies, agencies, funds and programmes.

24. Regional institutions also had a role in economic governance in terms of financial stability and the balance of power at the international level. To that end, the enhancement of the role of United Nations regional economic commissions and other regional and subregional integration processes and cooperation initiatives should be encouraged.

25. Croatia was fully committed to the Stabilization and Association Agreement it had signed with the European Union. Although primarily a political measure, that was also an important economic agreement introducing free trade between Croatia and the European Union. At the regional level, Croatia had also been active in the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, under which it had helped to create sustainable market economies and encouraged local and foreign direct investment.

26. **Mr. Huntley** (Saint Lucia), speaking on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that were Members of the United Nations, said that globalization had created opportunities for the few countries that had been able to take advantage of it, but had posed serious development challenges for the majority of developing States.

27. In spite of its shortcomings, the United Nations was the only institution with a clear development mandate under its Charter. Other institutions with narrower mandates, limited membership and exclusive decision-making processes, unless reformed, could not legitimately assume such a developmental responsibility. The obvious distinctions between the United Nations and such institutions was that the former developed policy without an enforcement mechanism, while the others enforced policy without a mandate or legitimacy of representation or full participation.

28. As the sole global institution, the pivotal role of the United Nations in promoting development was to provide a structure for good governance at the international level for the benefit of all peoples. To that end, the Organization must be strengthened commensurate with the demands of its development role and endowed with resources and personnel to meet the growing needs of developing countries.

29. The first step for the United Nations in promoting development in globalization was to facilitate further policy dialogue with all stakeholders. Such dialogue

should also include an examination of institutions governing the global economy and their mandates, with a view to promoting coherence and coordination. The next important step was to urgently establish effective monitoring mechanisms to ensure implementation of the outcomes of the recent conferences.

30. One of the glaring contradictions of globalization was the weakening of national governments by diminishing their role in regulating domestic markets. CARICOM believed that trade constituted one of the major vehicles for generating resources for development and stimulating growth. Trade liberalization, as currently practised, was the most significant barrier to development for developing countries because of the governing structure and decision-making processes of the multilateral trading system, which allowed the predominance of the few major trading countries and their transnational corporations. Yet, WTO was the only multilateral institution with enforcement and retaliation capabilities. The United Nations must promote a development dimension in the work of WTO and democracy in its decision-making processes. CARICOM hoped that implementation of the Monterrey Consensus would be reflected in the work of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of WTO and repeated its call for an institutional arrangement between the United Nations and WTO. It also requested the Secretary-General to submit a factual report and recommendations on the existing draft arrangement.

31. He underscored the impact of transnational corporations on globalization, noting that their growth was most significant in industries that formed the foundation for development. However, in developing countries those crucial sectors were becoming increasingly foreign-owned and subjected to strenuous negotiations and conditionalities. A global intergovernmental mechanism to monitor and regulate transnational corporations and their contribution to development was needed. CARICOM believed that a reinstated unit on transnational corporations within the United Nations system could resume that vital function.

32. The United Nations should provide governance of the global economy through a mechanism that could ensure implementation and equity in development. The strengthening of the Economic and Social Council should be considered, provided that the Council could be expanded to allow equal participation of all Member States.

33. **Mr. Yahya** (Israel) said that globalization implied growing interdependence resulting from advances in information and technology, increased international movements, electronic commerce, multinational business and capital and investment flows. It also affected almost every aspect of modern life beyond the economic realm. It was therefore important to strike a balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability, the prosperity of advanced nations and the aspirations of the developing world, the emerging global culture and the need to protect diversity and individuality.

34. Israel welcomed the emphasis placed by the Secretary-General on the need to establish patterns on good governance, mechanisms of accountability and transparent economic policies. Those characteristics constituted a call for democratization and participatory government, which were among the most important criteria for ensuring that globalization was inclusive. Israel had focused its development efforts on capacity-building and the building of partnerships, in the belief that nations must be self-sufficient. The programmes of the Government's Center for International Cooperation had helped communities to alleviate poverty and integrate the lowest economic sectors into the scientific and economic trends that were transforming the globe. The full potential of globalization would be reached only when all nations were capable of sharing the opportunities it provided.

35. **Mr. Lopez** (Philippines) said that the Philippines welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/57/287). His delegation believed that the marginalization and vulnerability of many developing countries, the widening income and technology gap between countries, and massive natural resource depletion and environmental degradation due to current patterns of economic development were areas of urgent concern.

36. Although national development was primarily the responsibility of each country, unilateral pursuits were never enough to achieve sustainable development. Multilateral cooperation, technology transfer, capacity-building, and the establishment of an enabling international environment conducive to sustained

economic growth and development should be stressed. Developing countries needed adequate mechanisms to offset adverse fluctuations in international commerce and finance.

37. Developing countries had accepted the need for good governance in public and corporate sectors and for the adoption of institutional reforms, guided by national priorities, requirements and capabilities in order to adjust to the new realities and imperatives of global cooperation. They had also recognized that increased foreign direct investment flows and official development assistance, improved access to foreign markets, effective debt relief and greater restraint and flexibility in the use of conditionalities would facilitate their pursuit of sustainable development. The outcomes and initiatives of recent conferences were particularly welcomed and it was hoped that the multilateral trading system would fully support development efforts. In order for globalization to positively affect developing countries, action was needed to improve access to international resources and to enhance the coherence of international monetary, financial and trading systems.

38. **Mr. Oratmangun** (Indonesia) said that it was a challenge for the United Nations and the international community to ensure that globalization became a positive force for all. Economic governance could provide a conducive environment for harnessing the potential of globalization in the service of development and poverty eradication.

39. In order to minimize the risks of globalization, it was critical to address the national, regional and international dimensions of economic governance. Part II of the Secretary-General's report in document A/57/287 highlighted four major areas that would prove crucial in closing the gap between the rapid pace of market globalization and the slow adaptation of governance structures and processes at the international level.

40. At the national level, the outcomes of the recent major conferences had stressed the importance of promoting both domestic and foreign investment. There was no doubt that developing countries must strengthen their national institutions in order to effectively and productively join the global economy. Indonesia was pleased to note in the Monterrey Consensus the commitment of the international community to support developing countries in their efforts to develop effective economic governance systems.

41. **Mr. Vienravi** (Thailand) said that the financial aspect of globalization could directly affect other components of the global economy, particularly trade and investment. A healthy and stable global economy required reform of the international financial architecture to bring about improved global financial governance and increased international financial stability. He urged the international community to fully utilize the framework for coherence provided by the Monterrey Consensus and the Plan of Action adopted at Bangkok, under the auspices of UNCTAD.

42. The increasingly interdependent nature of globalization necessitated increased participation by developing countries in policy- and decision-making on international financial issues. Reform of the governance structure of the Bretton Woods institutions was also needed to enhance the role of developing countries and emerging markets in the World Bank and IMF. An important first step could be the implementation of an equitable voting system for decisions which did not require drawing on the financial resources of the Bank or the Fund, but which affected all Member States. However, effective participation of developing countries would invariably require capacity-building and human resources development. He encouraged developing countries to make use of the International Institute for Trade and Development, based in Bangkok, which provided assistance in coping with the challenges of globalization.

43. Collective action and political will at the global level were crucial, and sincere cooperation was needed to create greater opportunities for all nations. The importance of firm commitment by the international community to the full implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Declaration and Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and to the outcomes of other major conferences could not be overemphasized.

44. **Mr. Kaemba** (Zambia) said that, while the global situation created by the expansion of information exchange gave cause for optimism, it should also be approached with caution. States should be careful how they seized the new opportunities afforded by globalization. The pace of its progress led his delegation to wonder whether the developing countries

were successfully integrating into the world economy. His own country was beset by difficulties arising from the mining sector's production problems, and the lack of self-sufficiency in food production owing to drought during the agricultural seasons. The external debt situation had also greatly weakened its terms of trade.

45. Zambia was an active participant in the multilateral trading system and in various preferential arrangements so as to benefit fully from its economic liberalization efforts through increased trade. While the Government's economic reforms were slow to bear full fruit, continued structural reforms, including advanced privatization and tariff rationalization, afforded better resource allocation. Zambia needed even more technical assistance in order to address its major concerns, including full participation in the multilateral trading system and exploitation of the related opportunities. Trading partners should ensure that their markets were open to Zambian goods, which were moving increasingly away from copper towards agriculture. If the least developed countries (LDCs) that were members of WTO were to achieve greater coherence in policy-making, as outlined in the Monterrey Consensus, they should receive full support from the Bretton Woods institutions through concessional programmes. He urged the international community to work towards debt cancellation for heavily indebted poor countries.

46. **Ms. Lewis** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that most peoples and countries were inadequately represented in intergovernmental organizations, and there were few opportunities for the voice of civil society to be heard. However, the recent growth of global networks in a variety of areas held out some hope. A decentralized, heterogeneous and networked world in which non-hierarchical units focused on specific problems had virtually replaced the old model of sovereign States, creating not anarchy or world government but "networked minimalism".

47. Global governance was a major theme to be addressed by the recently established ILO World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization, which was due to report in late 2003. Certain proposals were being made to the Commission for discussion. There was growing interest in reducing the global democratic deficit and improving international institutions' political effectiveness in achieving the Millennium Declaration goals, among others. But the idea of a global legislature of some 500 members, which, if based on proportional representation, would preclude automatic membership of most countries, should be abandoned in favour of maximizing the effectiveness of existing avenues of influence.

48. The High-level Panel on Financing for Development had recommended holding a global council meeting to ensure that voices representing all relevant parties were heard in the discussion. However, a more accessible approach would be to upgrade the Economic and Social Council, for which purpose the Secretary-General had already proposed a number of steps. One aspect of that reform could be shorter but more frequent meetings to discuss clearly focused subjects. Another could be a radical change in the voting system in the Bretton Woods institutions, where a large proportion of the voting rights was vested in a few developed countries. The developing countries' quotas should be increased in pursuit of more equitable representation.

49. Other gaps and weaknesses in the provision of global public goods, such as control of various diseases, environmental protection, fiscal cooperation, and reduction of international crime and financial volatility, should be identified and the means of rectifying them discussed. Global governance was essential and new policies and new or reformed institutions were needed. The United Nations economic and social forums must be strengthened and the economic and financial institutions reformed. The range and depth of global public goods needed to be extended and financing for development rapidly increased.

50. **Mr. Sharma** (Nepal) said that globalization had linked the destiny of humanity, thanks to advances in science and technology and the spread of democratic values and open markets. It was untenable and potentially explosive that the benefits of that globalization were highly concentrated in a few countries, making the rich richer and the poor poorer. Globalization that did not work for all would not work long for any, but would ineluctably spawn a backlash.

51. The challenge was to display the political will and the resolve to implement the Millennium Declaration goals and the compacts made at global conferences, so that developing nations could prosper and be integrated into the global economy for the benefit of all nations. That, in turn, called for the building-up of the developing nations' productive

capacities and the opening of markets to boost trade for their products. The developing nations must themselves create basic infrastructure, provide their people with basic services, mobilize internal resources and undertake reforms that encouraged investment and innovation, while the developed nations must offer them more aid and debt relief and help them attract more foreign investment.

52. The developing nations that had gradually liberalized their economies and opened their markets, mostly under the weight of donor conditionality, had been disillusioned when their development partners, albeit well-meaning, had failed to make good on their promise to steer them to sound health. The rich nations must keep their promises and practise what they preached, open their markets, dismantle their huge agricultural subsidies, remove tariff and other barriers to imports from the South, display a democratic spirit in world economic management and make the structural changes needed for a healthy global economy. They must ensure the developing countries' increased participation in global decision-making and the global trade regime, in the interest of the latter's capacity to trade and develop, especially by facilitating non-members' entry into WTO.

53. The international community must do all in its power to remedy the precarious situation of the LDCs by implementing the Brussels Programme of Action and ensuring duty-free and quota-free access to rich nations' markets, and to help landlocked developing countries overcome their geographical disadvantage.

54. Other consequences of globalization and interdependence were the globalization of terrorism and other crimes, the effect that conflict in one country had on the security of others, and the global spread of certain diseases, all of which could be tackled much more effectively by regional and subregional groups than by a single nation on its own. The United Nations could also play a powerful advocacy role, in addition to its proven worth as a source of technical and financial support for reforms, production-capacity development and trade facilitation. It was also in a position to put pressure on rich nations, international financial institutions and WTO to change their attitudes, and on developing countries to undertake reform and encourage regional economic integration. Civil society, too, could enhance understanding among stakeholders and urge key players to improve global national governance.

55. **Mr. Lolo** (Nigeria) said that the benefits of globalization were much more manifest in developed countries, where it had limitless potential. While a handful of developing countries had also benefited from globalization, the prevalence of poverty, disease and ignorance in most of them called those much-vaunted benefits into question. Shrinking borders had created an interdependent world with impressive levels of human creativity and thought, but also shifted its focus from the essence of being to the expedience and dictates of market forces. The participants in the Millennium Summit had vowed to create an enabling national and global environment conducive to fully inclusive and equitable globalization promoting development and poverty eradication. It was essential to promote social progress and better standards of living for all people, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

56. While his delegation agreed with the main thrust of the Secretary-General's report (A/57/287), it felt strongly that the United Nations should give more attention to, and provide leadership for, the implementation of international agreements, especially since the three main conferences of 2002 had focused on implementation. Progress in that regard required all sides to fulfil their commitments. The Organization must improve its coordination, coherence, consistency and efficiency; the General Assembly must maintain its universality and be more visible in decision-making and in its leadership; and the Economic and Social Council must fulfil its mandate to coordinate and follow up international conferences, avoiding duplication and serving as a yardstick for measuring responsibilities and results.

57. Nigeria had been a party to all the recent major conferences; it had played a leading role in the unfolding of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and was chairman of its Implementation Committee. While his country reaffirmed its commitment to fulfil its agreements, its capacity to achieve its targets would depend on support from its friends and partners. His delegation's views on the urgent need for debt cancellation in order to release resources for better social services were well documented, as was the fact that African countries paid more to the World Bank and IMF than they received from those two institutions. Nigeria had repaid in full, if not in excess. The African continent was perpetually

milked by the illicit transfer abroad of money acquired by corrupt and illegal means.

58. His delegation joined those who had called for effective measures to maximize the benefits of globalization and minimize its costs and to ensure sound economic governance. A new financial architecture should give developing countries a voice in financial decision-making, and international financial regulatory bodies should be more vigilant both in developed and developing countries so as to ensure burden-sharing in times of crisis. Despite the existence of specialized organizations, institutions and agencies, the United Nations was the appropriate forum to discuss all issues affecting humanity, for a global village had no borders.

59. **Mr. Khan** (Director, Division for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination) said that delegations' comments and suggestions had been duly noted. The debate had been rich and positive and had set the stage for the Committee to focus on the current session's goal of moving away from a general to a more specific debate on globalization. The Secretariat had already attempted to do so in the report, and delegations should bear that in mind when they came to draft their views on topics for further discussions.

60. Other issues closely related to globalization which delegations should also consider were science and technology for development; immigration; coherent management of globalization in an institutional setting; and whether current economic trends favoured the strengthening of the positive dimension of globalization. The Secretariat would then be able to prepare a report for the next session, with the participation of all the organizations of the United Nations system, taking into account the need for coherence in globalization, but also in the follow-up to the Millennium Declaration and the integrated follow-up to conferences. He invited delegations to consider those issues also before reaching their conclusions.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.

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Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 4 November 2002, at 10 a.m.

Chairman:	Mr. Suazo	(Honduras)
later:	Mr. Benmellouk (Vice-Chairman)	(Morocco)
later:	Mr. Suazo (Chairman)	(Honduras)

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02-67425 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 88: Operational activities for development (*continued*) (A/C.2/57/L.25, L.26 and L.27)

1. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.25 on pledging mechanisms and resource mobilization for operational activities for development of the United Nations system, A/C.2/57/L.26 on economic and technical cooperation among developing countries, and A/C.2/57/L.27 on operational activities for development. Two corrections had been made to the text of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.27: the title should read "Human development report" and the words "take appropriate measures to make operational the above paragraphs and" should be deleted from paragraph 5. He recommended that the Committee should adopt the draft resolutions by consensus.

Agenda item 95: Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly (A/57/271, A/57/272; E/2002/48)

2. **Ms. Gebre-Egziabher** (Director of the UN-Habitat Office in New York), speaking on behalf of the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), introduced the reports of the Secretary-General on the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (A/57/271), on the strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/57/272), and on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (E/2002/48). She wished to draw the Committee's attention to some of the reports' more significant findings.

3. The responsibility of UN-Habitat for coordinating the realization of the United Nations Millennium development goal of significantly improving the lives of 100 million slum-dwellers around the world by 2020 had provided the Programme with a much needed focus for its broad range of mandated activities. In that task, UN-Habitat was fully committed to working in partnership with other United Nations agencies to make the system more efficient for the benefit of the world's poor. During the previous year, for example, it had been working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on a plan to recruit local experts on human settlements to assist Resident Coordinators in the preparation of common country assessments, United Nations development assistance frameworks and poverty reduction strategy papers.

4. The General Assembly had agreed on the need for further strengthening of some elements of the Programme. One result of that assessment had been the decision to elevate to divisional status the Urban Secretariat Branch, which produced both the *Global Report on Human Settlements* and the *State of the World's Cities* report series. The General Assembly had also agreed that the United Nations Human Settlements Foundation should be granted divisional status, on condition that it was redesigned to carry out its original function as a global municipal development and housing finance facility for the very poor. Depending on the results of feasibility studies currently under way, that facility could become one of the most important tools in the fight against urban poverty.

5. The reorganization of UN-Habitat had improved the Programme's attention to both process and substance. Capacity-building had been recognized as one of the most effective developmental mechanisms and had therefore been elevated to branch status. The Executive Director had also requested and obtained branch status for the Programme's Urban Economy and Finance function.

6. In addition to the Programme's sharpened focus on the Millennium development goal of cities without slums, the international community had also called on UN-Habitat to play an increasing role in reconstruction following wars and natural disasters. UN-Habitat was the second largest reconstruction agency in Iraq, overseeing the resettlement of internally displaced persons in northern Iraq. In Kosovo, following the end of hostilities in 1999, the Programme's approach to reconstruction had included the development of policies, guidelines and procedures for efficient municipal administration, the regularization of housing and property rights, and the reconstitution of the property registration system. UN-Habitat had been active in Afghanistan for over a decade, implementing projects for community-based development. The new Government of Afghanistan had recently requested assistance in preparing and implementing a

comprehensive urban reconstruction and redevelopment strategy for the country.

7. Accessibility to water and sanitation were among the objectives of any strategy to upgrade slums. Since 1999, the Programme had been using funds from the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) and other sources to implement the water for African cities programme. It had also recently entered into an agreement with the Asian Development Bank and the Government of the Netherlands to implement a US$ 500 million programme on water for Asian cities. In response to the demand for the Programme's expertise and skills, the infrastructure section had been elevated to branch status and a Water and Sanitation Trust Fund had been established to mobilize resources for the water for African cities programme. The Programme appealed to those that were in a position to do so to make contributions to the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund.

8. The global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance, which were designed as strategic entry points into the complex Habitat Agenda, had made good progress during the previous year. Campaigns had been launched in Eastern Europe, India, Namibia, Nigeria, the Philippines and South Africa and plans were under way for further launches in the Baltic States and in Burkina Faso. The two campaigns were being increasingly integrated, since the Millennium target on slums provided a common platform for both secure tenure and good urban governance.

9. Since the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver, UN-Habitat had struggled almost alone to assist Member States in dealing with the impact of accelerating global urbanization. Since the Istanbul Conference (Habitat II), however, there had been a global realization that mankind was destined to become an urban species and that policies at all levels needed to catch up with that growing reality. The General Assembly had had the confidence in UN-Habitat to assign it new tasks in response to that reality.

10. The Programme's response capacity, however, was proscribed by the irregular and insufficient nature of the support it received. While it had successfully attracted very large sums of programme- and location-specific resources, the Programme's new mandates included recurring activities such as global monitoring and reporting, which would benefit from more sustained and predictable funding and other kinds of support. Member States could also participate in the work of UN-Habitat in ways that would be of direct benefit to themselves by establishing National Habitat Committees to help guide their approaches to urban challenges.

11. **Ms. Villalobos** (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that greater international solidarity and political will were required to achieve the Millennium development goal of significantly improving the lives of 100 million slum-dwellers around the world. The Group of 77 and China appealed to the developed countries to honour their pledge to provide financial resources and technical assistance to the developing countries to help achieve the universal goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements. The Group noted with concern that many developing countries had been unable to implement national plans owing to the lack of financial resources and technical assistance. Implementation of the recommendations made in the Monterrey Consensus, which were aimed at promoting cooperation between development financing institutions and local commercial partnerships, was one way of addressing that shortcoming. Another was a commitment by the developed countries to provide new and additional resources for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in developing countries. There was need for greater synergies and more effective cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes and with the Bretton Woods institutions in support of the Habitat Agenda.

12. The role of UN-Habitat should be further strengthened, particularly in the areas of capacity-building and technical assistance. In that connection, the regional programme activity centres had played an important role in promoting the objectives of the Habitat Agenda. The Group of 77 and China noted with satisfaction the active participation of developing countries in technical cooperation programmes aimed at expanding their capacities, improving conditions in slums and implementing the related recommendations of the Habitat Agenda. At the same time, however, the risk and disaster management programme and the Cities Alliance, both of which had suffered a decline in the level of resources available for projects and programmes, should be further strengthened.

13. **Mr. Jakobsen** (Denmark), speaking on behalf of the European Union and the associated countries Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey, said he welcomed the change in status of UN-Habitat, which should enable it to play a more strategic role within the United Nations system. There had been a number of positive developments in that regard, such as the strengthened collaboration between UN-Habitat and UNDP to set up Habitat Agenda focal points in selected UNDP country offices, and the establishment of a World Urban Forum. In addition to its important role in achieving many of the essential goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, UN-Habitat should make a stronger contribution to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21. Moreover, it should continue to promote decentralization and the strengthening of local authorities. Given the need to focus the spending of scarce resources, the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance were useful points of entry for effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The multi-year funding framework used in other funds and programmes could provide a useful basis for the review of the financing and work programme of UN-Habitat. It was an important tool in efforts to show accountability and establish close links between resources, activities and results.

14. **Ms. Aalberg** (Norway) said that the revitalization of UN-Habitat had upgraded its normative role, redressing the balance between normative and technical cooperation activities. A balance must also be struck in funding those activities, primarily by increasing the amount of non-earmarked contributions to the Human Settlements Foundation. While her country had set an example by doubling its non-earmarked contribution to approximately $1.3 million, it was also important to broaden the donor base. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/57/272), the six major donor countries alone accounted for 80 per cent of general purpose contributions in 2001. The Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat should be consulted closely in the review of its financial base and work programme, prior to an extensive debate at the meeting of the Governing Council in May 2003.

15. In order to achieve the goal contained in the Millennium Declaration of improving the lives of 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, UN-Habitat would require strong support from a wide variety of partners. Fruitful cooperation with local authorities would be crucial in implementing the Habitat Agenda, given the need for action at the local level. The World Urban Forum could be a model for enhancing civil society involvement throughout the United Nations system. Nevertheless, increased support for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their advocacy role was needed to ensure the continued success of the Forum. UN-Habitat was well placed to secure the support of the World Bank and other multilateral and bilateral agencies behind the Cities Alliance, which must be given sufficient opportunity to prove itself.

16. *Mr. Benmellouk (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

17. **Mr. Shamanov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation was generally satisfied with progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda. The goals of the Habitat Agenda and of the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (Istanbul+5), and the Millennium development goal of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020, would require much greater coordination among the organizations of the United Nations system, the international financial institutions and other partners, in line with the emphasis of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

18. The leading role in that regard belonged to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in its new form. It should develop its operational role in seeking productive and effective cooperation, diversification of financing for technical cooperation projects and programmes and new forms of international assistance. The improved status of the former Commission on Human Settlements would contribute to those goals, and to sustainable urbanization.

19. The World Urban Forum had begun an innovative dialogue among governments, civil society, businesspeople and scientists. Its work in the future should be directed towards substantive recommendations on sustainable urbanization and protecting urban areas from terrorism and dangerous natural and man-made phenomena. There was scope for cooperation between UN-Habitat and the Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and its partners.

20. The majority of the Russian Federation's population were urban dwellers, and sustainable urbanization and urban governance were topical issues. The experience of the organizations of the United Nations system was valuable in helping to address those issues.

21. **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Egypt) said that his delegation fully supported efforts to strengthen the mandate and status of UN-Habitat. He welcomed the addition of adequate shelter to the international development agenda following the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as well as the new target on sanitation linked to the Millennium Declaration goal of halving the number of persons without access to safe drinking water by 2015.

22. His delegation attached great importance to the role of UN-Habitat in addressing the dangerous situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, where Palestinians were denied access to shelter and basic services. At the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly, the international community had undertaken to strengthen the protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law, in particular the 1949 Geneva Convention. The Security Council and the General Assembly had reaffirmed the applicability of the Geneva Convention to all Arab and Palestinian territories on numerous occasions. However, Israel continued to flout international law by building illegal settlements and denying help to refugees in returning to their homes. He called on the international community to step up pressure on Israel to comply with Security Council resolutions, and to support further initiatives such as the visit undertaken by UN-Habitat to the Jenin refugee camp in May 2002. A comprehensive report should be drawn up concerning the housing situation in the occupied territories, containing recommendations for action by UN-Habitat.

23. He particularly welcomed the efforts of UN-Habitat with regard to institutional capacity-building for developing countries and enhancing the productivity of urban informal sectors. It needed to strengthen its relationship with international and regional development banks, and to foster new partnerships for implementing the Habitat Agenda. It was important for the World Urban Forum and Advisory Committee of Local Authorities to retain an advisory function, and not to affect the intergovernmental guidance provided by the Governing Council and Committee of Permanent Representatives.

24. **Ms. Wang** Ling (China) said that, despite progress in improving housing and living conditions in many countries over recent years, numerous difficulties still remained, particularly in developing countries. Between 40 and 50 per cent of city dwellers continued to live in slums, and at least 100 million people in the world were homeless. There was a significant discrepancy between reality and the commitments set out in documents such as the Habitat Agenda.

25. International cooperation should focus on economic development and poverty eradication, as the most effective means to resolve human settlement problems. Nevertheless, strategies should be formulated and implemented at the national level, according to the specific situation and capacities of each country. In view of those specificities, there could be no uniform model for human settlements. In particular, policies relating to decentralization and the role of local authorities could not be dictated without due regard for national legal and political frameworks. In her country, for example, the central Government played a coordinating role, provided financial support and mobilized the active participation of all sectors of society. It would continue to follow that approach in implementing the Habitat Agenda.

26. **Mr. Oratmangun** (Indonesia) said that the goal of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 was particularly daunting, given the trend of rapid urbanization and the estimated number of over 800 million slum-dwellers in 2001. Besides leading to problems of poor housing and lack of access to services, slums tended to perpetuate poverty, spread illnesses and create intense pressures on local resources. In spite of efforts to enhance the administrative and financial management of cities, slums continued to undermine the capacity of the urban environment. The major challenge for the international community was to overcome the remaining obstacles to effective implementation of the various programmes of action contained in the Habitat Agenda, the Millennium Declaration, and other texts. To that end, renewed political will and an injection of financial resources were of primary importance. UN-Habitat should identify innovative ways of mobilizing financial resources. Fresh partnerships were required to inspire

urban regeneration, including city-to-city cooperation, which offered a cost-effective solution for the exchange of best practices, and the more active involvement of civil society.

27. **Mr. Al-Shamsi** (United Arab Emirates) said that about 100 million people lacked the basic requirements in terms of adequate shelter, and health, social and educational services; millions of other people were homeless. That increased the urgency of speeding up the implementation of the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, the Habitat II Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium. It was also essential for the donor and developed countries to fulfil their commitments towards the developing countries, particularly the least developed.

28. The Government of his own country had given the question of human settlements top priority within the framework of a policy of decentralization, economic freedom and partnership between governmental and private institutions. The Government also supported various housing schemes for its citizens and had established new cities and villages equipped to modern technological standards, had donated land for house-building and provided grants and long-term loans to help people build their own homes. It also built houses for free distribution to citizens with low incomes. The Government also attached great importance to the dissemination of the best practices for improving living conditions and had established in 1975 a biennial prize in the amount of US$ 400,000 which helped to enhance public and international awareness of housing and human settlement issues.

29. While the United Nations was striving to improve the living conditions of millions of people in the developing countries, the international community witnessed the killing and destruction perpetrated against the Palestinian people and their cities and villages by the Israeli forces. Israel was continuing to demolish houses, hospitals, schools, places of worship and farms as part of a deliberate plan to destroy the infrastructure of Palestinian cities and villages and the cultural and religious heritage of such cities as Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Ramallah. The continued aggression by Israel was a gross violation of the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention and of the principles and purposes of the United Nations, which implied the development of cities and human settlements and the improvement of the living conditions of their inhabitants.

30. His delegation therefore called on the international community and the Security Council to exert pressure on Israel to cease its aggressive acts against the Palestinian people and to put an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. He also requested that the sanctions imposed on Iraq be lifted as soon as possible in order to give that country the opportunity to begin the rehabilitation and improvement of its economy and of the living conditions of its people.

31. His Government was providing financial, and humanitarian aid to many poor countries for the building of homes, hospitals, schools and mosques. It had also undertaken to reconstruct the Jenin refugee camp in Palestine, which had been destroyed by the Israeli forces. The most recent government project was the construction of a residential city in the Gaza Strip which would be provided with all basic facilities and infrastructure with the aim of easing the suffering of the Palestinian people.

32. **Ms. Wanyoni** (Kenya) associated her delegation with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

33. Because of the failure to meet commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Istanbul, widespread poverty, inadequate financial resources, high rates of urbanization, especially in developing countries, and lack of capacity of the UN-Habitat secretariat for coordination of activities, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda had not met the expectations of her delegation. General Assembly resolution 56/206 had underscored the crucial role of UN-Habitat in achieving the objectives of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium. The new standing of UN-Habitat gave human settlements a higher visibility both within the United Nations system and elsewhere. Her delegation hoped that the Governing Council of UN-Habitat would make the necessary decisions in May 2003 to institutionalize the recent changes.

34. UN-Habitat required adequate and predictable funding to enable it to fulfil its mandate and to reduce its reliance on unpredictable voluntary contributions. Her delegation therefore welcomed the proposed revision of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-

2005 to include subprogrammes on the financing of human settlements and monitoring of the Habitat Agenda. It also welcomed the recognition by the World Summit on Sustainable Development of the important role of adequate shelter, water and sanitation for sustainable development. The depressing fact that an estimated 56 per cent of Africa's urban population lived in slums and that the situation continued to worsen called for a concerted effort to prioritize the provision of adequate shelter in poverty eradication policies and programmes.

35. At the national level, the implementation of the Habitat Agenda was constrained by, among other things, inadequate funding. There was a need to establish effective housing finance mechanisms for the implementation of national plans of action and to address the needs of the urban poor. In collaboration with UN-Habitat, her Government was currently working on a programme to improve the living conditions of slum-dwellers and was interested in participating in the Cities Without Slums Subregional Programme for Eastern and Southern Africa and planned to establish a fund to ensure the sustainability of the programme.

36. In the context of urban governance, her Government was carrying out a plan to decentralize and strengthen local authorities. Plans were also under way to launch campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance and to coordinate road development and maintenance at the local level.

37. **Ms. Zubčević** (Croatia) expressed the satisfaction of her delegation with General Assembly resolution 56/206, as a result of which the secretariat of UN-Habitat, servicing the Governing Council, had become the focal point for human settlements and for the coordination of human settlement activities within the United Nations system, thus enhancing the status of the Governing Council as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly. The coordination and coherence of the implementation of the Habitat Agenda would be strengthened by the introduction of a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism consisting of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

38. Her delegation strongly supported the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at both the country and local levels. In that context, the Croatian National Habitat Committee had been established as a broad-based platform for the preparation and implementation of plans of action based on the Habitat Agenda. On the Committee's proposal, the Government had adopted a three-year programme of work in accordance with the Habitat Agenda, the Istanbul Declaration, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Urban governance was therefore a major component of the Croatian development strategy for the twenty-first century.

39. In order to improve its capacity and keep UN-Habitat continuously informed about implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the national, regional and local levels, the Croatian National Habitat Committee had proposed the inclusion of the UN-Habitat methodology in the statistical research programme of the National Institute of Statistics beginning in 2003. The results of four pilot projects which were under way would contribute to the development of indicators necessary for urban governance compatible with specific conditions in her country, which would result in recommendations to the Government on ways of promoting the methodology at the regional and local levels and on the promotion of an improved national statistical programme.

40. The Croatian National Habitat Committee would be open to all interested parties, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society in general. In its outreach programme it would specifically target those who were in charge of urban governance at all levels, as well as experts, educational institutions and the mass media, in order to raise public awareness of urban governance with a view to the more effective participation of the public in decision-making regarding cities and human settlements in general.

41. Her Government strongly supported regular reporting to UN-Habitat on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and also encouraged UN-Habitat, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies, to continue its efforts to provide technical and normative assistance to Governments. Her delegation also supported efforts to enhance the operational role of UN-Habitat in order to achieve more productive and effective collaboration with the agencies, to diversify sources of financing for technical cooperation projects and programmes and to identify new avenues for inter-agency collaboration.

42. *Mr. Suazo (Honduras) resumed the Chair.*

43. **Mr. Mabhongo** (South Africa) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

44. The World Summit on Sustainable Development had identified the provision of shelter as an important dimension of poverty eradication. The new target agreed by the international community of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people who did not have access to adequate sanitation would complement existing development goals. The Summit had recognized the special difficulties faced by African countries in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Istanbul Declaration. In that connection, the international community had been called upon to provide African countries with support to strengthen national and local capacities in the areas of sustainable urbanization and human settlements. It was also important to note the significant number of partnerships that had been launched at the Summit, which his delegation hoped would complement the implementation of the intergovernmental agreements. Another highlight of the World Summit on Sustainable Development had been the activities related to the Water for African Cities Programme, which had also seen the announcement of new partnerships by donors and African Governments.

45. The pace of urbanization challenged the capacities of cities to provide basic services such as water and sanitation and his delegation was therefore pleased with the progress that had been achieved so far by the Water for African Cities Programme, which had shown that improvement in the supply and management of water were crucial to the improvement of living conditions and the health of the population in cities.

46. His country remained committed to the Habitat Agenda and continued to make strides to realize the goal of providing adequate shelter and to improve human settlements. That was a formidable task but the progress achieved so far had been gratifying. Over the past seven years more than one million houses with individual tenure had been provided to the poor in both rural and urban areas and basic services, such as sanitation, water, shelter, electricity and land, had also been provided for the first time to a large proportion of the population. Despite those successes, one of the main remaining challenges was urbanization and the integration of the poor and vulnerable. Steps had been taken to build the capacities of municipalities and local authorities to enable them to manage the phenomenon of urbanization. The introduction of a social housing policy was also aimed at promoting and empowering social housing institutions.

47. His country looked forward to further collaboration with UN-Habitat and hoped that the upgrading of the programme would raise its profile and enhance the consideration of issues related to human settlements within the United Nations system.

48. **Mr. Rolle** (Bahamas), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that those States wished to associate themselves with the statement made by the delegation of Venezuela on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

49. CARICOM considered adequate housing as a fundamental human right and it therefore welcomed the steps taken to transform the Commission on Human Settlements and its secretariat into the United Nations Settlements Programme to be known as UN-Habitat. Such a combined approach would further enhance the coordination of human settlements activities within the United Nations system and would assist developing countries to improve the living standards of their people.

50. The CARICOM member States continued to face a number of challenges with regard to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, including the macroeconomic transformation of the region in response to globalization, increasing social inequities, the rapid expansion of squatter settlements and the informal housing sector, and the unavailability of funds for housing at the household level. The threat of natural disasters such as hurricanes posed further difficulties for the region, particularly with respect to reconstruction of property and access to insurance. There was a need for efficiently managed building codes meeting the needs of lower income households, especially the elderly, the disabled and disenfranchised youth, and for an integrated approach to problems relating to human settlements. Accordingly, CARICOM welcomed the work of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to capacity-building and technical cooperation, and called for assistance in the development of effective land policies and land management systems.

51. The Millennium development target of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 was challenging but not unattainable. Local authorities had an important role to play in implementing the Monterrey Consensus by addressing the development challenges facing developing countries. CARICOM particularly welcomed the call in the Monterrey Consensus for investments in basic economic and social infrastructure.

52. CARICOM welcomed the political emphasis placed on sustainable development and reiterated the need for international support to enable UN-Habitat to strengthen its global programmes. In that connection, CARICOM welcomed the adoption of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which outlined action to improve access to land and property, to adequate shelter and to basic services for the urban and rural poor. In conclusion, he pledged the support of the CARICOM member States for the work of UN-Habitat and looked forward to continued cooperation by that body in CARICOM's effort to strengthen shelter and settlements programmes.

53. **Mr. Gospodinov** (Observer for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)) said that the vulnerability of millions of people living in substandard conditions in urban environments continued to be a matter of concern for the International Federation. The continued deterioration in the situation in many countries was exacerbated by the relentless movement of populations from rural to urban areas, particularly in developing countries. In 2006 it was expected that, for the first time in human history, more people on the planet would be living in urban than in rural areas. That trend seemed to be almost inevitably accompanied by the proliferation of substandard housing and poor planning. The consequences of the lack of planning, inadequate or non-existent urban services and poorly constructed dwellings had been particularly severe in the areas of health, education, employment and crime.

54. Extensive research conducted by IFRC in a number of countries had shown that lessons to be drawn from the situation could be adapted to any national environment. For example, Governments could establish clearer building codes, incorporating minimum standards for housing and introduce measures to ensure adherence to those standards. Risk reduction and land-use planning should be incorporated into infrastructure design. The inclusion of beneficiary communities in the planning process would also help to avoid negative factors such as the absence of suitably located schools, hospitals, clinics and urban services. Communities relocating, including those relocated after a national disaster or as part of the urbanization process, should be provided with housing conditions to facilitate their transition to environments in which they could find employment and live with dignity. There was a clear need for improved inter-agency collaboration on those and related issues. Unfortunately, despite statements made and resolutions adopted at conferences around the world, collaboration on problems related to urban settlements was at an unacceptably low level.

55. Risk reduction and the link between relief and development had been the theme of several statements made by IFRC during the current session of the General Assembly. Risk reduction was also the theme of the 2002 edition of the World Disasters Report, which had been introduced during the session of the Economic and Social Council, thus indicating the significance attached by the United Nations system to risk reduction.

56. In the context of its commitment to work closely with its partners in the United Nations family, the Federation had recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Environment Programme. Another issue of central importance to the Federation was the efficient management of disaster response, including the application of appropriate minimum standards. In that connection, the International Disaster Response Law (IDRL), a project of the Federation on which it had made a statement in 2001 to the special session of the General Assembly on human settlements, was now well advanced.

57. The Federation hoped that Habitat would recognize the value of the IDRL project to its own initiatives and programmes and looked forward to Habitat's contributions to the debate when the issue was considered by Governments and member societies of the Federation at the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in December 2003 in Geneva.

58. **Ms. Lewis** (International Labour Organization) said that employment and income opportunities were crucial to improving the living conditions of millions of slum-dwellers. Thus, the campaign for decent work

pursued by the International Labour Organization (ILO) played a significant role in implementing the Habitat Agenda. The close links between poverty reduction, decent work and slum upgrading were also reflected in the long-standing partnership between UN-Habitat and ILO. A series of subregional workshops had recently been held in Nairobi as a joint initiative between the two agencies, designed to facilitate the exchange of good practices between municipal directors and national support agencies concerning urban service delivery and employment creation. They had also cooperated during a World Urban Forum session on employment promotion strategies to reduce urban poverty, an approach subsequently reinforced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development. At the country level, joint initiatives had been pursued in the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Cambodia and Afghanistan, and ILO had been making technical contributions to the work of the Cities Alliance. The programme of work following the International Labour Conference of 2002 concerning the informal economy would include, inter alia, improving access to property and labour rights, promoting gender equality, enhancing dialogue with workers in the informal economy and improving regulations and procedures for creating small enterprises. Consultations with UN-Habitat were currently taking place with a view to promoting employment for urban youth. Referring to the draft resolution on promoting youth employment (A/C.3/57/L.12), recently sponsored by 106 Member States in the Third Committee, she said that such collaboration at the country level would provide an adequate response to the growing urgency of the situation for urban youth.

59. **Mr. Ibrahim** (Nigeria) said that the transformation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements into a full programme (UN-Habitat) was a welcome step, since homelessness afflicted all societies, whether rich or poor. The homeless were also the most vulnerable individuals in society, and their situation was exacerbated by extreme poverty, unemployment, ignorance and disease.UN-Habitat had two main goals: the provision of adequate shelter for all, and the attainment of sustainable development of human settlements in an urbanizing world.

60. Implementation of the Habitat Agenda was a major challenge. The fact that Habitat issues had been among the focal points of the World Summit on Sustainable Development was proof that lasting peace, democracy, human rights and social justice could not be separated from economic well-being and sound environmental protection. The Summit had emphasized water, sanitation, energy and biodiversity, but its Plan of Implementation did not seem to have acknowledged the centrality of human-settlements issues to the eradication of poverty. Efforts to improve water, sanitation and energy would come to nothing in slum conditions, so the modest target of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 would require more support for UN-Habitat.

61. The strengthening of UN-Habitat was a welcome step. The Programme should be treated like all other United Nations funds and agencies, because of its pivotal role in ensuring adequate shelter for all and sustainable urbanization. Nigeria supported the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure as a strategy to spearhead global shelter efforts and thus make a major contribution to poverty alleviation by promoting the rights and interests of the poor, particularly women. However, its success would depend on the accommodation of cultural diversity, belief systems and national legislation. Nigeria also supported the Global Campaign for Urban Governance, which would contribute to alleviating poverty by promoting inclusion, accountability and transparency. It had launched its own national campaign for good urban governance, reflecting the role of local government as the basic unit for implementation of development programmes in its federal system. It advocated participation and partnership between the Government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and civil society in that field.

62. Capacity-building, manpower training and the use of national expertise and institutions for implementationwould reflect true ownership of the process and have a considerable impact on the lives of the poor in general and of slum-dwellers in particular. In that connection, the economics of the slum environment should be understood: in Nigeria, as in most of Africa and the developing world, urban housing was financed mostly with personal and family savings. Access to adequate housing would be impossible without access to land, credit and employment. Recent human development indicators had shown that poverty was increasing in many developing countries. In that context, the efforts of UN-Habitat in the development and strengthening of

housing finance systems and enhancing productivity in the urban informal sector were commendable.

63. Unfortunately, most of the general contributions to the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation came from a very small number of countries and were not predictable and special-purpose contributions often involved conditions. Nigeria welcomed the efforts of UN-Habitat to examine options to revitalize the resources of the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, as an important channel for funding. It looked forward to hearing recommendations for achieving that goal, and encouraged donors to contribute to UN-Habitat.

64. Since UN-Habitat had become a fully fledged programme of the United Nations, its role in addressing new challenges and promoting new partnerships should be made more visible. Its operational activities would benefit from inter-agency partnership and coordination within the United Nations system.

65. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the activities of UN-Habitat were important and could not be separated from the activities of other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes. The transformation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements into the United Nations Human Settlements Programme would encourage its integration at decision-making level with those agencies, funds and programmes, but the problem of funding remained, particularly for regional offices, and new ways of supporting the Programme were needed.

66. As the ILO representative had emphasized, improving living and health conditions in pursuit of the Millennium development goals was vital, but there were other challenges to be addressed, including poverty and underdevelopment. Planning and implementation should be methodical.

67. Among the additional issues to be considered was the demolition by the Israeli authorities of homes and a range of facilities including hospitals in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, such as the Golan Heights, in breach of many resolutions and conventions, including the fourth Geneva Convention (Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war), particularly articles 56 to 58. The matter was not a new one, but it was of direct concern to the General Assembly. The crimes in question should be brought to the attention of the international community. It was more important to end the premeditated destruction and deliberate impoverishment ofthe Palestinian people than to take remedial action afterwards. The Programme had a mandate to examine colonization, so advantage could perhaps be taken of the presence of its representative to hear what attention had been devoted to the matter.

68. In the same vein, the change to the mandate of the Programme had not yet been adopted, but the Syrian Arab Republic wished to draw attention to the need to make the position on tenure legal and proper, so that programmes did not violate international law.

69. **The Chairman** indicated that the representative of Israel had asked to reply to certain statements. Under rule 115 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,the number of statements in exercise of the right of reply was restricted to two per item, with the first statement not exceeding five minutes, and the second not exceeding three minutes.

70. **Mr. Nadai** (Israel) said that his statement would be briefer than the rules allowed. He wished to exercise his delegation's right of reply to the statements by the delegations of the United Arab Emirates and the Syrian Arab Republic. In the last year, the Palestinian campaignof terrorism against the citizens of Israel, begun in September 2000, had continued and even escalated. The Palestinian decision to engage in terrorism had harmed the economic, security and living conditions of all the peoples of the region, as terrorism was by its nature indiscriminate. The security measures which Israel had been obliged to implement in the face of an unrelenting threat of attack had indeed in some cases affected the daily lives of the Palestinians, but those measures were a consequence, rather than a cause, of the situation in the region. The predicament of the Palestinian people was the inevitable result of a conscious decision to forgo negotiations in favour of violence and terrorism. Israel hoped that those who truly cared about the plight of the Palestinians would refrain from using the issue as a political platform for attacking Israel.

71. **Mr. Nakkari** (Syrian Arab Republic), exercising his delegation's right of reply to the statement of the representative of Israel, said that in the interests of the Committee he could not refrain from commenting on the lies and allegations it had heard. In his view, nobody believed them, and the international community was well aware of the barbarous and inhumane practices being perpetrated, the latest

example of which had been the massacre in Jenin. That showed disregard not just for the Palestinians, but for all the peoples of the world. That flagrant act had been added to the blockade and the attacks against thousands of people and Christian and Muslim holy places. His delegation could not accept the justification offered for those acts, which were violations of the fourth Geneva Convention. The international community had condemned the long-standing Israeli occupation. An Israeli rabbi had even declared a *fatwa*, exhorting Israelis to steal olives in Palestinian territories. The approach was that the end justified the means.

72. **The Chairman** announced that the Committee had concluded the general debate on the item under consideration.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.